



**GUNNISON COUNTY • COLORADO**  
**2022 Performance Report**

# GUNNISON COUNTY

## 2022 Performance Report



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# VISION

Gunnison County cherishes its sense of community and place. We strive to preserve and promote the wellbeing of the County's citizens, natural environment and rural character. We will deliver services and set standards that reflect our values and preserve our unique quality of life for present and future generations to enjoy.



# PURPOSE

This report focuses on the implementation status of the Gunnison County Strategic Plan, last updated in June 2022. The Plan guides the County's efforts to ensure the health, safety and welfare of Gunnison County's citizens, and the four strategic priorities outlined in the Plan and this performance report are:

- **Ensure Sound Infrastructure**
- **Protect the Environment**
- **Promote Prosperous, Collaborative and Healthy Communities**
- **Deliver High Quality Services**

Many of the Plan's strategic results directly align with the One Valley Prosperity Project (OVPP) collaborative initiative, which focuses on achieving a more prosperous and successful future for all of the Gunnison Valley's communities. The OVPP logo is next to each aligned strategic result in this performance report to clearly demonstrate our commitment to following through on the actions identified as priorities by so many of our residents.

More information related to the County's strategic planning efforts is available online at: [gunnisoncounty.org/performance](https://gunnisoncounty.org/performance)

More information related to the One Valley Prosperity Project is available at: [onevalleyprosperity.com](https://onevalleyprosperity.com)



**Matthew Birnie**  
County Manager

County Manager Matthew Birnie can be contacted at (970)641-7602 or [mbirnie@gunnisoncounty.org](mailto:mbirnie@gunnisoncounty.org) if you have any questions or ideas, or if you would like to have a discussion about the County's performance management efforts.

# STRATEGIC RESULT #1

## ENSURE SOUND INFRASTRUCTURE

### STRATEGIC RESULTS UPDATES

1



By November 30, 2023, Gunnison County will ask the residents of Gunnison County to support a well-developed and informed ballot question to provide adequate funding that will support road and bridge infrastructure, construction and maintenance so that residents and visitors can safely travel on County roads, conduct business, and pursue recreational interests.

#### Update – Alternate Decision:

In 2023, the Board of County Commissioners decided not to proceed with this goal. The County will conduct more analysis for a future ballot measure.

2



By December 31, 2024, the development and infrastructure for the Shady Island River Park will be completed as generally described in the Shady Island Master Plan.

#### Update – In Progress:

Work is ongoing on this project. Restrooms are under construction and are expected to be complete in the summer 2023. Campsites and other day-use amenities like shade structures are planned for the spring and summer of 2024. The County will require additional funding to complete the project and will be seeking grants to supplement funding planned for the 2024 budget.



3

By December 31, 2024, Gunnison County will improve the Fairground's site as described in the Fairgrounds Master Plan. Progress will be achieved on the following specific results.



a) By July 2023, a multi-purpose space will be developed at the South West end of the site to accommodate the Cattlemen's Carnival.

b) By November 2024, the main parking-lot East of the Multi-Purpose Building will be expanded as described in the Master Plan to increase parking availability, add multi-modal transportation routes from Spruce Street, and create an improved entry plaza for the Rodeo grounds and Multi-Purpose Building.

### Update – In Progress:

Strategy A is no longer required, as the Cattlemen's Association has found an alternative site. Engineering for Strategy B is underway. In 2023, a new horse barn was also completed, which was part of the Fairgrounds Master Plan. The full project is expected to go out to bid in the fall of 2023, and construction will begin in the spring of 2024.

### Percentage of respondents to the biennial citizen survey who report that . . .

- 75%** Snow removal services on County roads and highways is good or excellent.
- 87%** Availability of paths and walking trails is good or excellent.
- 47%** Road repair services are good or excellent.
- 100%** of school days when snow accumulations meet plow policy criteria prior to 4:00 am, all school bus routes are plowed prior to school bus use.
- 100%** Airport compliance with all Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 139 regulations and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security regulations.
- 80%** of customer complaints at the Airport resulted in customer satisfaction or no desire for next-level management review or action.

# STRATEGIC RESULT #2

## PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

### STRATEGIC RESULTS UPDATES

1



Gunnison County shall continue to work with its partners to protect water quality and quantity for in-basin purposes in a manner that is socially, environmentally and economically sound.

#### Update – Ongoing:

Gunnison County, in cooperation with stakeholders, engaged in regulatory proceedings before the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) that resulted in maintenance site-specific water quality standards in relation to the Mt. Emmons mine and water quality in the Coal Creek Watershed. In addition, the County, in partnership with the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, participated in WQCC administrative proceedings to protect water quality standards associated with Tomichi Creek and in relation to the Homestake uranium mine. Relatedly, Gunnison County partnered with Town of Crested Butte and the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition to obtain Natural Resource Damages Trustees’ grant funding for the Gossan Revegetation Project.

With regard to water rights, Gunnison County is engaged in Colorado Water Court matter to protect and maintain its conditional water rights for potential use in its Dos Rios and Antelope Hills water treatment systems. The County also continues to participate in a Colorado Water Court proceeding in which Mt. Emmons Mining Company has applied for the continuation of conditional water rights from the Slate River, Carbon Creek, Mill Water Reservoir, and Elk Creek for mining purposes.

Finally, Gunnison County continues to diligently pursue, through litigation if necessary, compliance with its Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) regulations in order to protect and promote surface and groundwater quality. Recently and by way of example, the County obtained summary judgment in a court matter it initiated against a residential property located in the Irwin Townsite due to the residence’s repeated violations of OWTS standards.

2



By December 31, 2024, Gunnison County will work with the ranching community and other landowners to expand the conserved private ranchland in the County by an additional 10,200 acres from the 2018 baseline in order to protect open space and the watershed, ensure access to public lands and trails, and preserve agriculture.

**Update – In Progress:**

A total of 6,356 acres were conserved in Gunnison County for the years 2019 through 2022. If the goal of 8,500 is broken down by average annual amounts of 1,700 acres, the current amount is behind by 444 acres.



**23.91%** of private land has been conserved.

## STRATEGIC RESULTS UPDATES

**3** By December 31, 2030, Gunnison County will work to reduce energy use impacts and lower greenhouse gas emissions by 50% from 2005 levels, thereby improving air quality and addressing climate change as evidenced by:

a) Average EUI (energy use intensity) of commercial and residential buildings will continue to decrease as measured biannually in the County's Greenhouse Gas Inventory (residential EUI decreased by 7% from 2015-2020, commercial was flat).

b) By 2030 average VMT (vehicle miles travelled) will decrease by 8% per capita from 2015 levels as a result of the County's land-use policies, creation of workforce housing near jobs, support of mass transit, and creation of additional multi-modal transportation options.

### **Update – In Progress:**

The average EUI of buildings has decreased as of the 2020 GHG emissions inventory; residential EUI decreased by 7% from 2015-2020, and commercial EUI did not change.

VMT has increased in the most recent period, but no substantial projects to affect VMT have yet been implemented. Planning and projects related to transportation and land-use will have lengthy planning delays. Behavior change will also take some time once projects are implemented.



# ENVIRONMENT

**52%**

respondents to the biennial citizen survey reported that recycling services are good or excellent.

# STRATEGIC RESULT #3 PROMOTE PROSPEROUS, COLLABORATIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## STRATEGIC RESULTS UPDATES

1

By December 31, 2024, Gunnison County will facilitate efforts to progress equity, diversity, and inclusion within the organizational culture and community by:



a) Developing a strategic plan to further enhance a welcoming and inclusive organizational culture.

b) Partnering with the City of Gunnison's Rural Welcoming Initiative and exploring the potential to expand the program county-wide.

c) Memorializing our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in a values statement.

### **Update – In Progress:**

Gunnison County leadership and staff partnered with the City of Gunnison team for the Rural Welcoming Initiative and local community events. Gunnison County is working with Employer's Council on EDIB planning for 2023. The Gunnison County team's draft EDIB values statement was recently reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners, and a survey of employees is in progress.



## 2

By December 31, 2024, Gunnison County will promote optimal community and family health, safety and well-being through an integrated Health and Human Services team, as measured by:



- a) 75% or more of children two years of age will be up-to-date in all recommended vaccinations;
- b) 90% (minimum) of children with a Child Welfare case will not be reopened due to a new referral within 1 year;
- c) 90% of vital records (birth and death certificates) audited by the State meet all requirements;
- d) 95% of all eligibility determinations for food assistance are completed within 30 days; and
- e) 90% (minimum) of at-risk adults with an Adult Protection case will not be reopened due to a new referral within 1 year.

### **Update – In Progress:**

Good progress has been made toward promoting routine childhood vaccinations and accessing services with private providers and HHS clinics, and the metric performed at 63.8%. The HHS team has worked diligently with each Child Welfare and Adult Protection case to assure there was not a reopened case during this year. The Vital Records audit was excellent with >95% compliance with all requirements. All eligibility determinations for food assistance were completed within 30 days.



## STRATEGIC RESULTS UPDATES

3

By December 31, 2024, the Juvenile Services Department will have improved the future of Gunnison County residents by reducing youth substance use as evidenced by:



- a) Of the youth 6th – 12th grade who enroll in Choice Pass, less than 10% will violate their pledge;
- b) 70% of parents of 6th – 12th grade students report having had a conversation with their children, as measured by the Gunnison County Substance Abuse Prevention Project (GCSAPP) parent questionnaire;
- c) 5% reduction in youth binge drinking, marijuana, and nicotine rates as evidenced by the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) using 2019 as a baseline;
- d) 2% annual increase in Family Advocacy Support Team (FAST) referrals for elementary aged youth;
- e) 95% of youth/families participating on a FAST will not involuntarily enter the Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice systems (2019 baseline); and
- f) 88% of youth served by Early Intervention will not commit a new offense within one year of program completion (2019 baseline).

### Percent reductions in youth binge drinking, marijuana, and nicotine rates as evidenced by the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS), using 2019 as a baseline:

Binge Drinking 7.5%

Marijuana 12.8%

Vaping 15.9%

Cigarettes 9.2%

## **Update – In Progress:**

Gunnison County youth use rates decreased in 2021 from our 2019 reports, and we will continue to work on educating youth and parents on risk and protective factors.

In 2022, only 2.2% of Choice Pass youth violated their pledges. Additionally, we continue to see an increase in the number of parents who report talking to youth about the dangers of substances (78.69% in 2022); this measure is statistically significant and well above the state average. In 2022, 97.5% of youth/families participating on a FAST did not involuntarily enter the Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice system.

GCSAPP continues efforts in teaching prevention in the schools and providing education to parents, professionals and community members. The Choice Pass Program remains a strong prevention effort with 500+ youth participating in the program and 450+ parents attending an educational event. The program also has a violation rate of less than 6%. We are helping to address the need for more skill-based services with in-school programming and Choice Pass violations. We are also assisting with grant writing to help support embedding social workers in the school. We have two Social Emotional Learning Coordinators in the school and plan to hire an Education-based Caseworker to support youth with truancy, suspension and substance misuse.

We have seen an increase in elementary-age youth needing FAST services, and we have been able to support those kids with prevention services. We continue to meet our target for 95% of FAST youth not involuntarily entering into the Child Welfare system or the Juvenile Justice system. We did see a slight increase in youth recommitting in the Early Intervention Program, with small total numbers that equate to two youth.

## STRATEGIC RESULTS UPDATES

4

By December 31, 2024, Gunnison County will facilitate efforts in the valley to stabilize and increase early childhood education, child care and pre-K slots by:



a) Developing a strategic community plan to maximize current capacity at all licensed providers and expand capacity for infant and toddler care.

b) Developing a Local Coordinating Organization (LCO) plan for universal preschool implementation.

c) Outreach, education and support services to increase licensed home providers.

### **Update – In Progress:**

The HHS team and County leadership met to develop a strategic plan to maximize current capacity for all providers. The team continues to work directly with the child care providers to sustain and support capacity expansion, specifically for infant and toddler care. An LCO plan for universal preschool implementation was developed. Ongoing outreach, education and support services for licensed home providers has begun.



**80.36%** of youth served by the Juvenile Justice Activity had no further contact with the Gunnison County juvenile justice system within one year of program completion.

**0.8%** teen pregnancy rate.

**70%** of children received all required immunizations [Hepatitis B, DTaP/Tdap (Diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis/Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis)/, IPV (Inactivated Poliovirus), MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) and Varicella] upon entering school.

**388** Women and Infant Children (WIC) visits completed.

**74** Adult Protective Services (APS) cases opened.

**96.25%** of older adults who are served by the Senior Resource Office remain in their own homes.



Percentage of respondents to the biennial citizen survey who report that . . .

**39%** The availability of preventative health services in Gunnison County is good or excellent.

**63%** Access to services provided to seniors by Gunnison County is very easy or somewhat easy.

## STRATEGIC RESULTS UPDATES

5



By December 31, 2025, Gunnison County will capitalize on the extensive airport facility investments by increasing the airport's economic impact to the community by 20% over the results of the 2020 Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) study to \$145M, increasing enplanements to 50,000 primarily by reducing passenger leakage, and increasing corporate and general aviation activity.

### Update:

The 2020 CDOT-sponsored Airport Economic Impact Study determined the economic impact to the Gunnison region was \$121M annually, based on aeronautical activities at Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional Airport (GUC). This result was based on scheduled airline services that produced an average of approximately 34,500 annual enplanements during the five-year data study period (2014 to 2018), together with general aviation activity during the same period.

Through other specific GUC air service market studies over the last eight years, it has been established that GUC's total (inbound and outbound) passenger market size is around 240,000 passengers annually, based on US Department of Transport (DOT) data which chronicles airline ticket purchases by zip code. The same market studies also determined that over 70% of these total passengers that would typically use GUC as a first choice from a geographical perspective are, for various reasons, using other airports for their travels (i.e., passenger leakage). These reasons may include cheaper fares, frequency of flights and more airlines choices.

In 2022, GUC produced approximately 52,500 enplanements, thereby exceeding the enplanement strategic goal of 50,000 by December 2025.

During March 2021 thru January 2023, the County completed an extensive \$30M passenger terminal renovation, which had been on the County's airport Master Plan since 2015 and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.

By improving the quality of overall air travel infrastructure, services and experiences at GUC, the potential to grow aeronautical-based activity and increase passenger enplanements utilizing robust and aggressive air service development practices to reduce leakage will directly result in strengthening the economic impact to the region and enhance our global connectivity.

6



By December 31, 2030, in addition to the 88 units the County will have facilitated by the end of 2022, the County will facilitate the construction of 300 new units of the 960 units identified as needed in the most recent Gunnison Valley Housing Needs Assessment.

### **Update – In Progress:**

Prior to the end of 2022, a total of 125 units had been built as a direct result of County efforts, partnerships and/or facilitations. Those units were in four different projects:

- 1) Wills Way – 5 units
- 2) Paintbrush – 76 units
- 3) Elk Valley Townhomes – 8 units
- 4) Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Project – 36 units

Achieving the goal of 300 additional units will largely be accomplished by the completion of 49 units in the Sawtooth Project (Phases I and II) in 2023/2024, and approximately 230 units in the Whetstone Project, for which the County is currently engaged in the necessary planning, design and land-use approval processes.



# STRATEGIC RESULT #4 DELIVER HIGH QUALITY SERVICES

## STRATEGIC RESULTS UPDATES

- 1 By December 31, 2022, Gunnison County will adopt wildfire risk reduction and mitigation policies to ensure the creation of defensible space and structures that are ignition resistant.

### Update – Completed:

Gunnison County adopted the 2021 International Wildland Urban Interface Code on September 8, 2022. The County also adopted amendments to the Gunnison County Land Use Resolution in alignment with the International Wildland Urban Interface Code. The Code went into effect for new construction in 2023 and staff has been completing training with the Colorado State Forest Service to support the implementation of the code adoption. The updated code and policies will ensure that new construction and new development in Gunnison County mitigate wildfire risk and are built in a manner that resists wildfire.



2



By December 31, 2023, Gunnison County will establish a north Gunnison area master plan in collaboration with the City of Gunnison. The master plan will be a first step in a larger planning process for the Gunnison to Mt. Crested Butte corridor.

### Update – In Progress:

Gunnison County and the City of Gunnison hired Houseal Lavigne consultants and kicked off this area planning process in September 2022. The City and County continue to work with Planning Commissions from both jurisdictions, stakeholders, and the public to develop a plan for the north and west Gunnison areas. This plan will support alignment with the City's Comprehensive Plan, and it will identify locations and opportunities for future growth that meets the community needs while also developing a streamlined review process.



## **OFFICE LOCATIONS**

**Airport Admin/AARF** 519 Rio Grande Avenue; 970-641-2304

**Airport Terminal** 711 Rio Grande Avenue

**Blackstock Government Center** 221 N. Wisconsin Street

**Assessor's Office** 970-641-1085

**Clerk & Recorder's Office** 970-641-1516

**Community & Economic Development** 970-641-0360

**Elections** 970-641-7927

**Geographic Information Services (GIS)** 970-641-7620

**Information Technology (IT)** 970-641-1410

**Motor Vehicle** 970-641-1602

**Recording** 970-641-2038

**Treasurer's Office** 970-641-2231

**Courthouse** 200 E. Virginia Avenue

**Alternative Services** 970-641-7635

**Board of County Commissioners** 970-641-0248

**County Attorney** 970-641-5300

**County Manager** 970-641-0248

**Finance** 970-641-2203

**Human Resources** 970-641-7623

**Juvenile Services** 970-641-7902

**Fred R. Field Western Heritage Center** 275 S. Spruce Street

**Fairgrounds** 970-641-8561

**CSU Extension** 970-641-1260

**Health & Human Services** 220 N. Spruce Street

**Main Line** 970-641-3244

**Multicultural Resources** 970-641-7999

**Senior Resources** 970-641-7984

**Veterans' Services** 970-641-7919

**Landfill** 621 CR 42; 970-641-5522

**Public Safety Center** 510 W. Bidwell Avenue

**Detention Center (Jail)** 970-641-1108

**Emergency Management** 970-641-2481

**Sheriff's Office** 970-641-1113

**Public Works** 195 Basin Park Drive; 970-641-0044

**Water Treatment Plant** 38130 W. Hwy 50; 970-641-8565